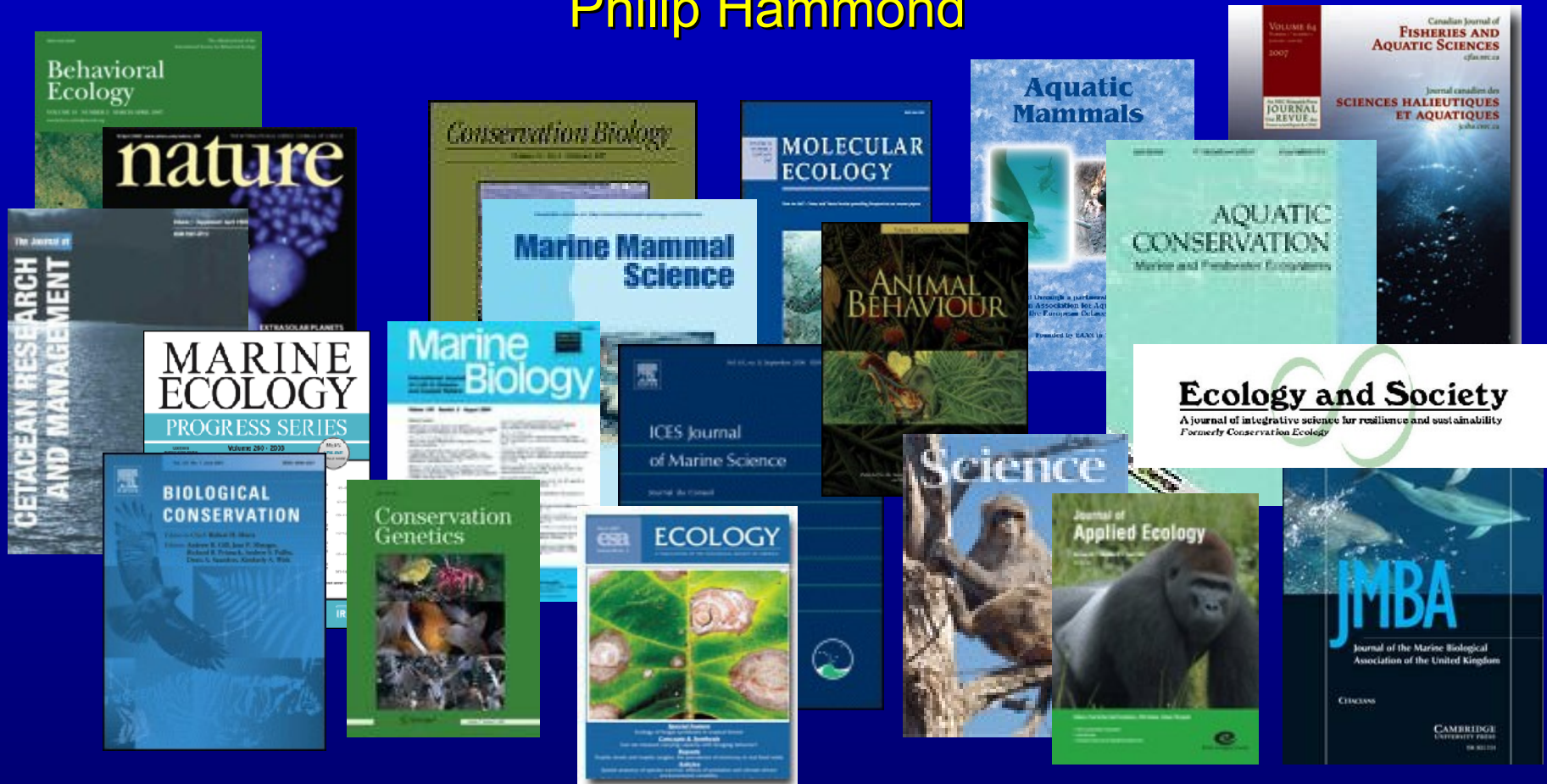


# Publishing in scientific journals

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# Why publish?

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- To inform other people about your findings
  - Science is about advancing knowledge
  - Unless you publish, people will not know about your work and knowledge will not be advanced
- To help your research career
  - List of publications is one of the most important parts of your CV
  - You're much less likely to get a job in research if you don't publish
- To help your institution
  - Funding is allocated partly on affiliated publications

# Which journal?

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- What is the subject area of your research?
- What is the main message you want to get across?
- How long does the paper need to be?
- How 'good' is the work?
- How generally applicable are the results?
- Who do you think should be interested in the paper?
- Who do you want to read the paper?
- How generally accessible do you want your paper to be?
- Do you care about 'ratings'?
- Are you in a hurry?
- Do you need colour?

# Who publishes scientific journals?

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- Journals are typically published by academic societies
  - E.g. Society for Marine Mammalogy, British Ecological Society
- Often through large publishing houses
  - E.g. Springer, Elsevier, Blackwell
- Some journals are published by other organisations
  - E.g. IWC
- Publishing is a business
  - Someone needs to pay
  - Journals need to be successful
    - Maintain subscriptions, readership, submissions

# Journal Impact Factors

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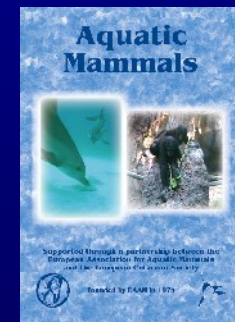
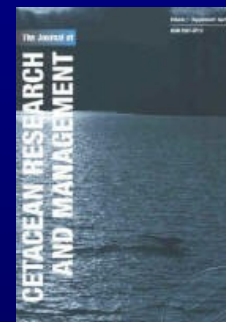
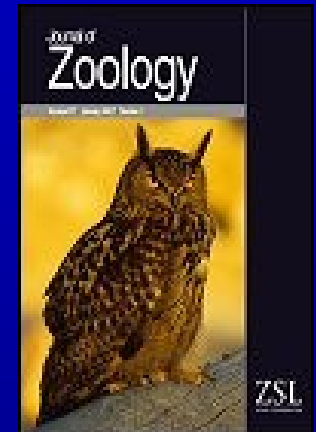
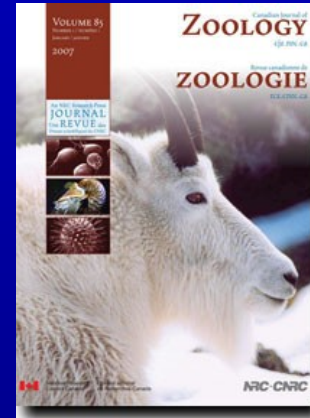
- Measure of how much use is made of publications

$$\text{JIF}(2005) = \frac{\text{citations to papers in 2005}}{\text{papers published in 2003} + \text{2004}}$$

- In ISI listed journals
- Can be applied to a journal or a person or a paper
- Often used as a measure of how 'influential' a journal is
  - Marine Mammal Science = 1.1
  - Marine Ecology - Progress Series = 2.3
  - Ecology = 4.5
  - Nature = 29.3
- But its not that simple ...

# Zoology/mammalogy journals

- Canadian Journal of Zoology
- Journal of Mammalogy
- Journal of Zoology
- Mammal Review
- Mammalia
  
- Aquatic Mammals
- Journal of Cetacean Research and Management
- Marine Mammal Science



# Marine biology journals

- Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences
- Deep Sea Research
- ICES Journal of Marine Science
- Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the UK
- Journal of Sea Research
- Marine Biology
- Marine Ecology - Progress Series



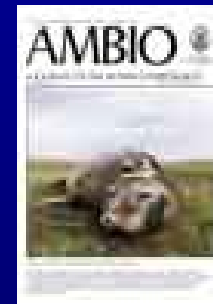
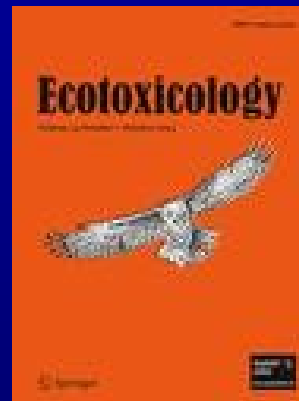
# Ecology journals

- Ecology
- Ecological Applications
- Ecology Letters
- Ecology and Society (Conservation Ecology)
- Journal of Animal Ecology
- Journal of Applied Ecology
- Marine Ecology - Progress Series
- Molecular Ecology



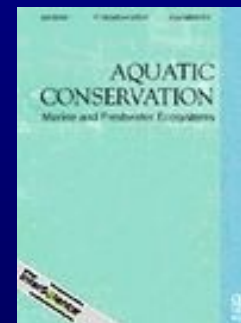
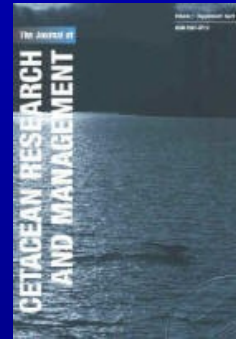
# Environmental science journals

- Ambio
- Ecotoxicology
- Marine Pollution Bulletin
- Science of the Total Environment



# Conservation/management journals

- Animal Conservation
- Aquatic Conservation - Marine & Freshwater Ecosystems
- Biological Conservation
- Conservation Biology
- Conservation Genetics
- Ecological Applications
- Ecology and Society
- Journal of Applied Ecology
- Journal of Cetacean Research and Management
- Journal of Wildlife Management



# The subject

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- Marine mammal science is a taxon-specific discipline
  - Covers a wide range of subjects
  - Marine mammal journal
  - Or choose a another journal that covers your subject area
- What is the main message you want to get across?
  - Might have to choose which way to 'sell' the paper
    - E.g. ecology or conservation?
- Make sure your paper is relevant to the journal

# The audience

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- Who will be interested in reading your paper?
  - Potentially many people if results are widely relevant
    - E.g. new method, new insight into general principle, etc
    - Aim for higher impact general journal
  - Fewer people if results have limited generality
    - Species-specific, region-specific, etc
    - Probably more suitable for a lower impact journal
- Who do you want to read your paper?
  - Aim for a journal that your intended audience is likely to read
    - Results will be seen by the most relevant people
    - Less important now than before because of internet

# The research itself

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- Is this a substantial piece of research?
  - How long does the paper need to be?
  - Most journals have quite tight size restrictions
- How 'important' is the work?
  - The more 'important' your work, the more likely it is to be published
    - Quickly
    - In a high impact journal
  - But 'importance' is partly a subjective judgement
- How generally applicable are the results?
  - Results that can be generalised are more publishable
  - High impact journals require generality

# The process of publishing a paper

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- Preparation and submission
  - Read some papers from potential journals
  - Follow journal guidelines (style, format, submission)
- Paper sent for review (or not)
- Receive reviews
  - Acceptance, invitation to revise or rejection
- Responding to reviews
  - Don't react negatively to criticism!
  - Respond appropriately
    - You don't have to do everything the reviewers say
    - Letter to editor listing how you've addressed the main criticisms
- Proof reading
- Timetables

# The future ...

- The days of paper journals may be numbered ...
- Already several on-line only journals
  - E.g.
- Open access on-line publishing is the future ...
- Meanwhile – keep publishing!



Useful (US-focused) compilation of conservation-related journal descriptions:  
Kareiva, P. & Yuan-Farrell, C. (2006). Where to publish? <[pkareiva@tnc.org](mailto:pkareiva@tnc.org)>